

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
REGULAR WORK SESSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2014
6:00P.M.**

1. OPENING

1.1.1 Call to Order

Council President Yeargin called the meeting to order at 6: 04p.m.

1.1.2 Roll Call

Present: Mayor Eugene Grant (Late), Councilmember Johnie L. Higgs (Late), Sr. (Excused), Councilmember Eugene Kennedy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms (Late), Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: LaTasha C. Gatling, City Administrator, Dashaun N. Lanham, City Clerk

1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:

The invocation was given by Councilmember Stephenson

1.1.4. Approval of Agenda

It was motioned by Councilmember Porter and seconded by Councilmember Kennedy to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

2. PRESENTATIONS:

2.1. Mr. Steven Franco, Discount Mart Owner

- Mr. Franco stated that he purchased the location at 401 Eastern Ave., Seat Pleasant, MD and would like to make it a Seat Market LLC.
- Mr. Franco stated that he has been in business for 15 years and in Seat Pleasant for 9 years.
- Mr. Franco stated that he would like to make the side a 7-Eleven and the corporation did not approve the location because they wanted a wider curve and they are interested in having a gas station with a convenience store.
- Mr. Franco stated that it is talk of another tenant, but it may be costly for him to do.

- Mr. Franco stated that he will be working with the police in Seat Pleasant and DC.
- Mr. Franco stated that the lighting will be changed on the interior and exterior of the building.
- Councilmember Porter stated that the City vision for that area is for mixed use development.
- Council President Yeargin inquired on the permits for the location.
- Mr. Franco stated that the permits are for Discount Mart and they are an authorized dealer for cricket.
- Councilwoman Stephenson inquired if the policy on returns and store credit will be changed.
- Mr. Franco stated they he will take it into consideration, but the discretion is on the cashier.
- Councilmember Porter stated that he was very familiar with the store on Rhode Island Avenue. He stated that there is a concern about the bird that it may be a health issue and other issues.
- Councilmember Porter stated that the bird may be an issue for some people to shop in the store.
- Councilmember Porter stated they are improving the corridor and they want to make the commercial buildings on the corridor attractive.
- Mr. Franco stated that the bird was a mascot for the store and he will be finding a new home in his living room.
- Mr. Franco stated that the current location does not allow them much space, as the site he purchased.
- Mr. Franco stated that they he will be installing new HVAC's at the location. He stated that he would be saving about \$9,000 per month with the purchase of the site.
- Mr. Franco stated that his rent was increasing from 1% to 3% and he does not want to work for the landlord.
- Mr. Franco stated that he was looking to obtain grants, which one he did not qualify for due to requirements.
- Mr. Franco stated that he presented the City Administrator with a letter with a request.
- Councilwoman Stephenson wanted to know if the lighting would include the back of the building.
- Mr. Franco stated that it would include lighting in the rear and side of the building.
- Councilwoman Stephenson inquired on the handicap accessibility.

- Mr. Franco stated that it is required by ADA to have handicap accessibility.
- Mr. Franco thanked the Council for inviting him to the meeting.

3. LEGISLATION

3.1. None

4. REPORTS:

4.1. Mayor's Report

- Mayor Grant stated that the contractor stated his computer was not experiencing any operator errors.
- Mayor Grant stated that his office was not as active due to loss of one of the children. He stated that they were able to bury him.
- Mayor Grant stated that the Health Enterprise is moving smoothly. He stated that he has not seen any members of the Council in the meetings.
- Mayor Grant stated that the next meeting will be on February 25, 2014 at the Seat Pleasant Activity Center. He will confirm the time and date and inform the Council.
- Mayor Grant stated that they were trying to have five doctors in each location. We have five locations in the County.
- Mayor Grant stated they had received 1.4 million dollars for the Health Enterprise Zone.
- Mayor Grant stated that Fairmount Heights will be submitting a bond bill to have a Health facility in their Town Hall.
- Mayor Grant stated that Senator Benson will be sponsoring that bond bill and he will be in support of it.
- Mayor Grant stated that he believes that Capitol Heights will be doing the same thing.
- Mayor Grant stated that the ethics law is being discussed this year. He stated that PGCMA and MML will be addressing the encroachment of the laws by elected officials.
- Mayor Grant encouraged the Council to go the PGCMA website.
- Mayor Grant stated that this has been one of the best years with feedback on the issues.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that we do not get information from PGCMA.
- Mayor Grant requested for the City Clerk to contact the legislative aide to provide them with the City Council and City Administrator e-mail addresses.

- Mayor Grant stated that Bowie, Laurel and Greenbelt continue to have conversation on the zoning law authority.
- Mayor Grant stated that PGCMA issue is something that we need to get actively involved in legislation on the County level.
- Mayor Grant stated that there has been a change with the scholarship. They had created an education fund that they will give money to a middle school that qualifies. They must maintain \$10,000 dollars in the account at all times.
- Mayor Grant stated that he did raise some concerns at the meeting when they presented the changes. He stated that he was not fully prepared to discuss the issue.
- Mayor Grant stated that it is these types of issues that need Council input. He stated that he would encourage the Council to attend the next meeting with a report being presented to the full body.
- Mayor Grant stated that he could tell the Council it is almost along racial lines and the African Americans have a concern and the Caucasians are supporting the idea. It is whether the school is meeting certain bench marks.
- Councilmember Higgs inquired if the decision was made by the board or by the municipality.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that it was three of the board members that had their own agenda and they will make changes and not bring it to the body.
- Councilmember Higgs inquired if the change was made at general meeting.
- Mayor Grant stated that he will go back to verify the record on the changes and the money being transferred.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that when she last attended the meeting they decided not to give the scholarship and it was not voted upon.
- Mayor Grant stated that we need to be a little more sophisticated on how we address the issue.
- Mayor Grant stated that they do not attend the meeting in certain areas.

4.2. City Administrator Report:

- Ms. Gatling stated that the snow removal was uneventful and she did not receive any complaints.
- Ms. Gatling stated that the RFP to demolish the Feggans Center has been put on Maryland e-Market Place.
- Ms. Gatling stated that we had received a grant through the Maryland Energy Assistant to replace the windows in City Hall.

- Councilmember Yeargin stated that if the windows are one pane you will need the bars.
- Councilwoman Stephenson inquired if the City had looked into anything on handicap accessibility.
- Council President Yeargin inquired on the outside lights and the electrician stated that they will need an upgraded electric panel to supply heat in the hallway.
- Councilwoman Stephenson inquired on the heat in Council Chambers being under the dais.
- Ms. Gatling stated that contractor did not look at the flood lights on the parking lot. Unfortunately, due to Mr. Thompson being out due to illness he did not get the request on the flood lights and heat in the hallway. It will be resolved this week.
- Council President Yeargin inquired if the lights had a warranty.
- Councilwoman Stephenson inquired on the sensor for the lights.
- Ms. Gatling stated the light switch may be in Public Works and we may not know where the light switch is located.
- Councilwoman Simms inquired on the defibrillator and Foote Street demolition.
- Ms. Gatling stated that she has been checking on the prices to purchase three defibrillators and they are rather costly.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that the cost of someone life is not too much.

4.3. Council Committee Report

- 4.3b Finance & Budget Committee Chair, Councilmember Kelly Porter stated he presented a document and wanted to add the following language:
- Receipts are required for the record, but not required when a affidavit is signed.
- The Affidavit will be forthcoming
- The City Treasurer stated that the auditor stated that he could not confirm the affidavit without seeing the document. However, the receipts are required.
- The affidavit should be signed stating they are attending the conference and they are in receipt of the funds.
- Ms. Gatling stated the City Attorney stated the policy must be for everyone the elected officials and staff.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that if we go with the affidavit, it should not be for each time, but maybe one time.
- Ms. Gatling stated that if the City was to receive a public information act request for all the receipts pertaining to travel. How would she address it when there is just an affidavit.

- Councilmember Higgs stated that what we are looking for is accountability. He stated that the County requires you to turn in receipts.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that she's in agreement with the receipt and accountability. However, she would like to eliminate the paper process. She would recommend the visa/master card for the purpose of traveling.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that Bank of America will charge you the \$8.00 fee to cash the check and they will not provide you with a receipt.
- Councilwoman Stephenson said the pre-paid cards cost \$4.95 per card. If you need to provide a receipt you can go online and print the receipt.
- Councilmember Porter stated that he would like to take back the arrangement request to the Treasurer Officer to see what the cost factor will be in doing so.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that it was addressed regarding the receipts that the money will be deducted from your check.
- Council President Yeargin inquired if the changes were made to change the days for 30 days.
- Councilwoman Simms stated that she feels the Council as a whole needs to review the Accounting Manual.
- Councilmember Porter inquired if the Council wanted to move forward on the affidavit.
- Councilwoman Stephenson stated that she would like to see the affidavit.
- Councilmember Higgs inquired if the affidavit is approved would it protect the City.
- Councilmember Higgs inquired if the Council needed to provide receipts on the \$300 service check they receive per month.
- Ms. Gatling stated the City Attorney stated the Charter does not provide any information on the service expense. He stated that it is not illegal, but not stated.
- Councilmember Higgs asked can the committee meet on Thursday, February 6, 2014 at 5:00pm for the Budget and Finance Committee, Government Affairs & Technology at 5:30p.m.
- It was requested for the Public Works Department to put cones on Addison Road by the hole.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1. Employee Health Insurance Contribution

- Ms. Gatling stated that she had five options for the Council to review.
- Ms. Gatling stated that the first option she does not recommend Option 1 to cover the employees only.
- Option 2 the City will not cover the deductible savings of \$42,000

- Option 3 the City covers 50% of the deductible
- Option 4 the deductible be reduced to \$1,500 and the City covers the deductible
- Option 5 No changes
- Ms. Gatling stated that she would recommend Option 2 or Option 3
- It was motioned by Councilmember Higgs and seconded by Councilwoman Simms to select Option 2. The motion carried.
- FOR: Higgs, Simms and Yeargin
- AGAINST: None
- ABSTAIN: Kennedy, Porter and Stephenson
- It was motioned by Councilmember Porter and seconded by Councilmember Kennedy to select Option 5 and Option 2.
- FOR: Porter, Stephenson and Yeargin
- AGAINST: Higgs
- ABSTAIN: Kennedy and Simms
- Ms. Gatling stated that she will be meeting with the insurance broker on February 19, 2014. She will provide the Council with numbers for each of the options after the meeting.

5.2. Seat Pleasant Day

- Ms. Gatling stated that the staff and residents feels that Seat Pleasant Day is dry.
- Ms. Gatling stated that the City is competing with the Harlem Renaissance and other activities in the State.
- Ms. Gatling stated that she wanted to know if the Council would be opposed to changing Seat Pleasant Day to May 17th.
- It was motioned by Councilmember Simms and seconded by Councilwoman Stephenson to change Seat Pleasant Day to Saturday, May 17, 2014. The motion carried.
- FOR: Higgs, Kennedy, Porter, Simms, Stephenson and Yeargin
- AGAINST: None
- ABSTAIN: None

5.3. Update on Agenda Management System

- Ms. Gatling stated the City Clerk had discovered the current website has an Agenda Center, which will save the City over \$6,000.

- Ms. Gatling stated that this will automate the Agenda Package.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

6.1. Strategic Plan Update

- Council President Yeargin stated that the City Council needs to work on the section.
- The City Clerk stated the Community Service Department had created a survey and advertised it in a newsletter when the Strategic Plan was first invented. The concern was that none of the residents had responded to survey.
- Ms. Gatling suggested that the Council have an event in the community to engage the residents.
- The City Council agreed to have a tent at Seat Pleasant Day and the City Clerk will poll the Council for another date to be in the community.

6.2. Update on Demolition of Properties

- Ms. Gatling stated that the County will be demolishing the properties, but they need clarity on the Court Order.
- Ms. Gatling stated that Ms. Andres is working with Mr. Jones to have the properties demolished as our code includes abatement or demolishing.

7 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **7.1. AARP Tax Preparation, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers, Every Wednesday, February 5, 2014-Wednesday, April 9, 2014 from 10:00a.m.-3:00p.m. Appointment Required.**
- **7.2. Ward V Meeting, Wednesday, February 5, 2014, Seat Pleasant City Hall Council Chamber at 5:30p.m.**
- **7.3. Black History Month Activity, Raisin Cane: A Harlem Renaissance Odyssey, Starring Jasmine Guy, Friday, February 7, 2014, MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND!! Seats are limited, bus will leave City Hall at 9:30a.m.**
- **7.4. Public Session, Monday, February 10, 2014, Seat Pleasant City Hall-Council Chambers at 7:00p.m.**
- **7.5. Black History Month Activity, Black Wax Museum. Friday, February 14, 2014, MUST REGISTER TO ATTEND!!! Seats are limited, bus will leave City Hall at 8:30a.m.**

- 7.6. PGCMA Meeting, Thursday, February 20, 2014 from 6:00p.m.-9:00p.m. **LOCATION TBD**
- 7.7. History Month Activity, Movie Night, Friday, February 21, 2014, Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, 6305 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD 20743 "FREE" and Open to the Public at 7:00p.m., Showing the Movie "42"
- 7.8. Ward II Community Meeting, Thursday, February 27, 2014, Pleasant Homes Community Center, 6810 Greig St., Seat Pleasant, MD from 6:00p.m.-8:00p.m.
- 7.9. Black History Month Activity, Movie Night, Friday, February 28, 2014, Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department, 6305 Addison Rd., Seat Pleasant, MD 20743 "FREE" and Open to the Public at 7:00p.m., Showing the Movie "The Great Debaters"

ADJOURN-The meeting adjourned at 8:48p.m.

Submitted by,



Dashaun N. Lanham
City Clerk